

**Amendment to the Specification**

[0018] For the resulting structure, FIG.1 shows spreading resistivity versus depth as measured from the surface of the reduced-thickness surface layer. As compared with the spreading resistivity graph in the 1996 MRS article, it is apparent that etching has resulted in removal of a low-resistivity portion of the top surface layer. Further in contrast, the gradient of spreading resistance versus thickness is significantly [less] greater in the present new structure.